Proposal to Treat Animal Husbandry at par with farming

*232. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to treat animal husbandry at par with farming;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) to (c) Animal Husbandry is a State subject. Accordingly, it is for the individual States to take a view in this regard.

Deaths due to tobacco consumption

*233. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the consumption of tobacco has increased in the country inspite of the efforts made by his Ministry;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) how many tobacco related deaths took place in the country during last three years, year-wise; and

(d) what steps are being taken to see that the younger generation abstains from the consumption of tobacco?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (d) As per National Family Health Survey (NFHS 3 2005-06), 57% Male & 10.8% Female consume some form of tobacco. NFHS 2 (1998-99) had indicated 46.5% male and 13.9% female prevalence. However, since the methodology adopted for the two surveys are different, it is difficult to provide an exact estimate of change in tobacco prevalence.

No such specific data regarding the death due to tobacco year-wise is being maintained Centrally. However, as per the Report of Tobacco Control 2004, every year approximately 8-9 lakhs people die due to tobacco related illness and 50% cancer related death is attributable to tobacco consumption.

The Government of India has enacted the "Cigarettes and other tobacco products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003, mainly to discourage consumption of tobacco products. Some of the important provisions of the act are:

(i) Prohibition of smoking in a public place.

(ii) Prohibition of direct and indirect advertisement of cigarette and other tobacco products.

(iii) Prohibition of sale of cigarette and other tobacco products to a person below the age of eighteen years.

(iv) Prohibition of sale of tobacco products near the educational institutions.

(v) Mandatory depiction of statutory warning (including pictorial warnings) on tobacco packs.

(vi) Mandatory depiction of tar and nicotine contents along with maximum permissible limits on tobacco packs.

The Government of India has launched the new National Tobacco Control Programme to improve awareness and enforcement of the Anti-Tobacco Laws. Under the Eleventh Five Year Plan, a budget of approximately Rs. 450 crores is proposed. It is also proposed to establish the National Tobacco Regulatory Authority to ensure effective implementation of the laws. Under the National Tobacco Control Programme (NTPC), it is proposed to carry out a campaign for greater awareness about ill effects of tobacco among the school children.

Import of foodgrains

†*234. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of foodgrains that has been imported and exported by Government during the last three years;

(b) the quantity of wheat and pulses out of the foodgrains imported during the said period alongwith the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that despite the availability of wheat in sufficient quantity in the country, wheat had been imported from abroad, and its quality was also not good; and

(d) the names of Government and non-Government institutions which imported the foodgrains alongwith the rates at which the same were imported, the countries from which the same were imported, and the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) No import of rice, pulses and other cereals was done by Government during the last three years *i.e.* 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07. During 2004-05, 2005-06 no wheat was imported by the Government. However, during 2006-07, 54.54 lakh MT of wheat were imported on Government account.

During 2004-05, 7.45 lakh MT of wheat and 0.90 lakh MT of rice were exported from the Central Pool maintained by the Government. No export of wheat and rice was done during 2005-06 and 2006-07. Also no export of pulses and other cereals was done by the Government during the last three years.

(c) No, Sir. The Government maintains stocks of wheat in Central Pool for meeting the requirements of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), various welfare schemes, Open Market Sales (OMS) to control market prices as and when necessary and relief for calamities besides maintaining the required buffer stocks. Since the total available stock of wheat from domestic procurement was not adequate to meet these requirements, Government had to import wheat for the Central Pool during 2006-07.

Some complaints were received from Maharashtra about quality of imported wheat allocated for Open Market Sale in March, 2007. However, samples jointly drawn by FCI and State Government representatives on testing were found conforming to quality norms. Subsequently, Government of Maharashtra has been directed not to distribute the wheat if found not meeting quality standards on testing. Further, the Government have also advised

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.